

Version of Amended Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made:

- 1 32. (Twice amended) A portable cot apparatus comprising:
2 a. four rail structures;
3 b. four corner connectors configured for removably coupling to the four rail
4 structures to form a rectangular frame; and
5 c. a flexible support removably coupled to each side of the rectangular frame wherein
6 the flexible support is removably coupled to at least one side of the rectangular
7 frame structure by a detachable fastener including interlocking fastener portions
8 attached to the flexible support, wherein the detachable fastener is configured for
9 forming a [detachable] sleeve around the at least one side of the rectangular frame
10 by wrapping a portion of the detachable fastener around the at least one side of the
11 rectangular frame and securing interlocking fastener portions.
- 1 38. (Amended) The portable cot apparatus of claim 32, wherein the interlocking fastener
2 portions comprise [detachable fastener further comprises] a piece of loop fabric and a
3 piece of hook fabric [attached to the flexible support, wherein wrapping the flexible
4 support around the at least one side of the rectangular frame and interlocking the loop
5 fabric with the hook fabric forms the detachable sleeve around the at least one side of the
6 rectangular frame and secures the flexible support to the at least one side of the rectangular
7 frame].
- 1 40. (Twice Amended) The portable cot apparatus of claim 39, wherein the first rail section is
2 configured to be detachably coupled to the second and the third rail section through corner
3 connectors and wherein the second and the third rail sections are configured to be
4 detachably coupled to the fourth rail section through corner connectors, wherein each of
5 the corner connectors have [horizontal] holes for receiving ends of the each rail section.
- 1 46. (Amended) A stacking cot system comprising;
2 a a plurality of portable cots wherein each cot comprises:
3 a. a stackable frame comprising;
4 i. four rail sections; and

- 5 ii. four connectors for connecting the four rail sections, wherein each
6 of the four connectors has a top [horizontal] opening for receiving a
7 connector of a next stacked cot and a bottom vertical opening for
8 receiving an extension leg; and
9 b. a flexible support having a detachable fastener for removably and
10 selectively coupling the flexible support to the stackable frame, the
11 detachable fastener having fastener portions attached along an edge of the
12 flexible support such that the flexible support is removably and selectively
13 coupled to the stackable frame by wrapping the flexible support around at
14 least one of the four of rail sections and interlocking the fastener portions to
15 form a sleeve around the at least one of the four rail sections wherein the at
16 least one of the four rail sections is substantially covered by the sleeve.

1 49. (Amended) A cot comprising;

- 2 a. a rectangular frame comprising a first and a second side rail section and a first and
3 a second end rail section configured to couple through four corner connectors to
4 form the rectangle frame; and
5 b. a rectangular cover section configured to couple to the rectangular frame through
6 the first and the second side rail section and the first and the second end rail
7 section, the rectangular cover section comprising a first and a second side sleeve
8 structure and a first and a second end sleeve structure, each sleeve structure being
9 configured for receiving a corresponding rail structure, wherein the first end sleeve
10 structure is formed by folding a portion of the cover section over onto itself and
11 engaging a two part connector coupled to the portion of the cover section, whereby
12 the cot is capable of being assembled by the following steps of;
13 i. connecting one end of each of first and the second side rail sections to an
14 end of the first end rail section through two of the four connectors to form a
15 partial frame having two free ends;
16 ii. placing the two side sleeve structures over the first and the second side rail
17 section of the partial frame;
18 iii. forming the first sleeve structure around the first end rail section;
19 iv. placing the second end sleeve structure over the second end rail section;
20 and

21 v. connecting each of the two free ends to an end of the second end rail
 section through the two remaining connectors.

1 51. (Amended) The cot of claim 49, wherein the four connectors are configured to interlock
2 with a second frame such that the second [cot] frame is capable of being securely stacked.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the arguments set forth below. Claims 24-43, 45-53 were previously pending in this application. Claim 24-38, 40 and 46-53 have been rejected. Claims 39, 41-43 and 45 have been allowed. By way of the above amendment, Claims 32, 38, 40, 46, 49 and 51 have been amended. Claims 24-43 and Claims 45-53 are still pending in the application.

Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112

Within the Office Action, Claims 40 and 46-53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, it is stated within the Office Action that the word "horizontal" should be deleted from Claims 40 and 46 and that in Claim 49 it is unclear what engages the two-part connector. It is also stated within the Office Action that the word "cot" should be deleted from line 2 of Claim 51.

By way of the above amendment, the word "horizontal" has been removed from Claims 40 and 46. The Claim 49 has been amended to recite that a two part connector is coupled to the portion of the cover section, thus making it clear what engages the two part connector. The word "cot" in line 2 of the Claim 51 has been deleted.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Within the Office Action, Claims 24-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,003,649 to Kelly (hereafter "Kelly") in view of U.S. Patent No. U.S. 2,670,478 to Gilfillan (hereafter "Gilfillan").

Within the Office Action it is stated that Kelly teaches a nestable cot with a plurality of rods and a web. The web is folded back over on itself and sewn together to form sleeves through which rods are positioned for securing the web to the frame. The frame is assembled with connectors that hold the rods together. The cot is supported in an elevated position by a pedestal.

It is also stated within the Office Action that Gilfillan teaches a collapsible cot with a frame having a plurality of tubes joined by corner pieces. The cot of Gilfillan has a fabric section that is supported on three sides with channels formed by folding the fabric over onto itself and sewing seams. The fourth side of the fabric is secured to the frame with a sash threaded through a plurality of grommets. Within the Office Action it is stated that it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify the cot taught by Kelly to have a detachable fastener assembly as taught by Gilfillan.

Within the Office Action, it is recognized that the prior art made or record fails to teach that a sleeve structure is formed by folding a portion of the cot cover onto itself and engaging a two-part connector. The Applicants contend that the independent Claim 24 clearly recites these distinguishing features. Further, Claim 32 has been amended to more clearly recite these distinguishing features.

Specifically, the independent Claim 24 is directed to a portable cot apparatus. The portable cot apparatus of the Claim 24 includes a stackable frame structure including a plurality of rail structures for supporting the portable cot apparatus and a flexible support. The flexible support has a detachable fastener for removably and selectively coupling the flexible support to the stackable frame structure. Within Claim 24 it is specified that the detachable fastener has fastener portions attached along an edge of the flexible support such that the flexible support is removably and selectively coupled to the stackable frame structure by wrapping the flexible support around at least one of the plurality of rail structures and interlocking the fastener portions to form a sleeve around the at least one rail structure wherein the at least one rail structure is substantially covered with the sleeve. As discussed above, neither Kelly, Gilfillan nor their combination teach the use of a detachable fastener to secure a flexible support to a cot frame, wherein the detachable fastener wraps around at least one rail structure to form a sleeve around the rail structure. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 24 is allowable over the teachings of Kelly, Gilfillan and their combination.

Claims 25-31 are all dependent on the independent Claim 24. As described above, the independent Claim 24 is allowable over the teachings of Kelly, Gilfillan and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 25-31 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The amended independent Claim 32 is directed to a portable cot apparatus. The portable cot apparatus of Claim 32 includes four rail structures and four corner connectors configured for removably coupling to the four rail structures to form a rectangular frame. The portable cot apparatus of Claim 32 further includes a flexible support removably coupled to each side of the rectangular frame. It is further specified within Claim 32 that the flexible support is removably coupled to at least one side of the rectangular frame structure by a detachable fastener including interlocking fastener portions attached to the flexible support, wherein the detachable fastener is configured for forming a sleeve around the at least one side of the rectangular frame by wrapping a portion of the detachable fastener around the at least one side of the rectangular frame and securing interlocking fastener portions. As discussed above, neither Kelly, Gilfillan nor their combination teach the use of a detachable fastener to secure a flexible support to a cot frame, wherein the detachable fastener wraps around at least one side of the rectangular frame structure

to form a detachable sleeve around the at least one side of the rectangular frame. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 32 is allowable over the teachings of Kelly, Gilfillan and their combination.

Claims 33-38 are all dependent on the independent Claim 32. As described above, the independent Claim 32 is allowable over the teachings of Kelly, Gilfillan and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 33-38 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that Claims 39, 41-43 and 45 are allowed. Within the Office Action it is stated that Claims 46 and 49 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed above, Claims 46 and 49 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. For at least these reasons, Claims 46 and 49 are allowable.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that Claims 40, 47, 48 and 50-53 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph have been overcome. Claim 40 is dependent on the independent Claim 39, which has been allowed. Accordingly claim 40 is allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Claims 47 and 48 are dependent on the independent Claim 46. Claims 50-53 are dependent on the independent Claim 49. As described above, the independent Claim 46 and 49 are allowable. Accordingly Claims 47, 48 and 50-53 are all allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit all of the Claims 24-43 and 44-53 are now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 833-0160 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

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